

Saturday, March 27, 2010

8 PM

Reggie Wilson/ Fist & Heel Performance Group

Reggie Wilson/Fist & Heel Performance Group is a Brooklyn based dance company which blends contemporary dance with African traditions. The company makes brilliant new performance from the spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora. Wilson draws on the movement idioms of Blues, Slave and Worship cultures to create what he calls "Post-African Neo Hoodoo Modern dance". Accompanied by their own driving rhythms--body percussion, aspirated breath, singing and shouts--Fist & Heel blends deep ritual into potent, beautiful and energizing contemporary dance.

The Good Dance (Congo-Congo and his search for the Good Dance) is the working title for a new work, currently being developed by choreographer, Reggie Wilson, which explores the influence of Central African culture on world performance forms and its metaphoric, historic, real world parallel with Mississippi Delta culture. His research on the secular and religious aspects of life in the African American communities of the Delta and the Central African countries of Cameroon, Gabon and Congo (Brazzaville) and a multi-year exchange and collaboration between *Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group* and Congolese choreographer, Andréya Ouamba and his Company, *1^{er} Temps* based in Dakar, Senegal, will be contextualized into the performance work *The Good Dance*. The project has been awarded an NDP production and touring grant and will be available for touring in 09/10. A work in progress performance of the piece will be performed at the French Institute : Alliance Francaise in May of 2008. The New York City premiere will take place at the BAM Next Wave Festival in the Fall of 09. The project's proposal is available upon request.

Previous works include *The Tale: Npinpee Nckutchie and the Tail of the Golden Dek (The Tale)*, an examination of the human search for coupling and uncoupling; a new group work using tugging, push and pulling, hidden, subtle, aloof partner manipulation, and detached gazes of the social dance form Stepping. It integrates African forms with the intricate partnering and movement dialogs of "hand dancing" idioms Bopping and Lindy Hop as well as the Black Folks tradition that produced the Big Apple, the Black Bottom, the Electric Slide, etc. *The Tale* premiered to critical acclaim last February in NYC at Dance Theater Workshop.

About the piece The New York Times wrote "The Tale cultivates a concise gem of a world, where music and movement are sewn together by a social dance form called stepping". The work has been commissioned by Dance Theater Workshop, NY; On the Boards, WA; Helena Presents, MT; MCA Chicago, IL, ; and the NPN Creation Fund. It was also awarded a National Dance Project grant for the 06/07 season and was performed in twelve venues throughout the US.